

the purposes of this Act, and is made available upon the Secretary and the management entity completing a cooperative agreement.

(b) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated not more than \$1,000,000 to carry out the purposes of this Act for any fiscal year after the first year. Not more than \$10,000,000, in the aggregate, may be appropriated for the Heritage Area.

(c) MATCHING FUNDS.—Federal funding provided under this Act shall be matched at least 25 percent by other funds or in-kind services.

(d) SUNSET PROVISION.—The Secretary may not make any grant or provide any assistance under this Act beyond 15 years from the date that the Secretary and management entity complete a cooperative agreement.

#### NATIONAL VETERANS AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 304, which was reported by the Judiciary Committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FITZGERALD). The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 304) expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the development of educational programs on veterans' contributions to the country and the designation of the week that includes Veterans Day as "National Veterans Awareness Week" for the presentation of such educational programs.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed, the amendment to the title be agreed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statement relating to this resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 304) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 304

Whereas tens of millions of Americans have served in the Armed Forces of the United States during the past century;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of Americans have given their lives while serving in the Armed Forces during the past century;

Whereas the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining our freedoms and way of life;

Whereas the advent of the all-volunteer Armed Forces has resulted in a sharp decline in the number of individuals and families who have had any personal connection with the Armed Forces;

Whereas this reduction in familiarity with the Armed Forces has resulted in a marked decrease in the awareness by young people of the nature and importance of the accomplishments of those who have served in our Armed Forces, despite the current educational efforts of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the veterans service organizations; and

Whereas our system of civilian control of the Armed Forces makes it essential that

the country's future leaders understand the history of military action and the contributions and sacrifices of those who conduct such actions: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Secretary of Education should work with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Veterans Day National Committee, and the veterans service organizations to encourage, prepare, and disseminate educational materials and activities for elementary and secondary school students aimed at increasing awareness of the contributions of veterans to the prosperity and freedoms enjoyed by United States citizens;

(2) the week that includes Veterans Day be designated as "National Veterans Awareness Week" for the purpose of presenting such materials and activities; and

(3) the President should issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe such week with appropriate educational activities.

The title was amended so as to read:

Resolution Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the development of educational programs on veterans' contributions to the country and the designation of the week of November 5, 2000, as "National Veterans Awareness Week" for the presentation of such educational programs.

#### ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2000

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it recess until the hour of 9:30 in the morning on Tuesday, September 26. I further ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then begin consideration of the H-1B visa bill as under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ROBERTS. Further, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess from the hours of 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. for the weekly policy conferences to meet.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled cloture vote occur at 10:15 on Tuesday morning with the time prior to the vote divided as ordered previously.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ROBERTS. I ask unanimous consent that second-degree amendments may be filed at the desk up to 10:15 in the morning under the terms of rule XXII.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PROGRAM

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, the Senate will begin 45 minutes of debate on the H-1B visa bill at 9:30 tomorrow morning. Following that debate, at 10:15

a.m., the Senate will proceed to a cloture vote on the pending amendment to the H-1B legislation. If cloture is invoked, the Senate will continue debate on the amendment. If cloture is not invoked, the Senate is expected to resume debate on the motion to proceed to S. 2557, the National Energy Security Act of 2000.

Also this week, the Senate is expected to take up any appropriations conference reports available for action.

Mr. SESSIONS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for approximately 10 to 15 minutes.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Alabama is recognized for 10 to 15 minutes.

#### ENERGY PRICES

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, we are now dealing with a very important issue to the future of our country; and that is the price of energy; oil and gas, gasoline, and home heating fuel prices. They have been going up at a dramatic rate.

This is not a surprise. This is an event predicted and warned about by Members of this Congress for years, including Senator MURKOWSKI, who chairs the Energy Committee. I have talked about it for the last 3 or 4 years that I have been in this Senate.

This is what the issue is about. By allowing our domestic energy production to decline steadily, we have less and less ability to control prices in the world market, and, in fact, we become more and more vulnerable to price increases and production reductions by the OPEC oil cartel—that group of nations centered in the Middle East that get together to fix prices by manipulating production levels.

We now find ourselves in a very serious predicament. It is not a predicament that a simple release of a little oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve is going to help. It threatens our economy in the long term.

Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the U.N., just wrote an editorial that I saw over the weekend. He has predicted that the poorer nations, the developing nations, will be hurt more by rising energy prices than the wealthy nations, but he does not dispute that wealthy nations will also be damaged.

This increase in fuel costs amounts to a tax on the American people. It comes right out of their pocket every time they go to the gas station.

Now we have this "bold" plan of the Gore-Clinton administration to release 30 million barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. This is supposed to be a solution to this problem, it is supposed to really help. But what this recent action really amounts to, is